UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.1/50/L.22
6 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 70 (c)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: PROHIBITION OF THE DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

South Africa*: draft resolution

Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolutions CM/Res.1153 (XLVIII) of 1988 1/ and CM/Res.1225 (L) of 1989, 2/ adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa,

Welcoming resolution GC(XXXIV)/Res/530 establishing a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session, 3/

Welcoming also resolution GC(XXXVIII)/Res/6, adopted on 23 September 1994 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group of States.

1/ See A/43/398, annex I.

2/ See A/44/603, annex I.

3/ See International Atomic Energy Agency, Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Thirty-third Regular Session, 25-29 September 1989 (GC(XXXIII)/RESOLUTIONS(1989)).

thirty-eighth regular session, 4/ inviting the Board of Governors and the Director-General of the Agency to commence preparations for a convention on the safety of radioactive waste management,

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 5/ inter alia, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, 6/ on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa,

Aware of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security, in particular for the security of developing countries,

Recalling its resolutions 43/75 Q of 7 December 1988, 44/116 R of 15 December 1989, 45/58 K of 4 December 1990, 46/36 K of 6 December 1991, 47/52 D of 9 December 1992, 48/75 D of 16 December 1993 and 49/75 A of 15 December 1994,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 7/

1. Takes note of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to a future convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons; 8/

2. Expresses grave concern regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;

3. Calls upon all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

4/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Regular Session, 19-23 September 1994 (GC(XXXVIII)/RES/DEC/(1994)).

5/ The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament became the Committee on Disarmament as from the tenth special session of the General Assembly. The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

6/ See A/49/390, annex I.

7/ Resolution S-10/2.

8/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/50/27).

4. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;

5. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify efforts towards an early conclusion of such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session the progress recorded in the negotiations on this subject;

6. Takes note of resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa;

7. Expresses the hope that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

8. Welcomes current efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the preparation of a draft convention on the safe management of radioactive waste;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes".